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# REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

## Letter dated 6 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the texts of the Joint press statement of the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, held on 17 and 18 February 1992 at Singapore, and the "Singapore resolution on environment and development", with its annex entitled "ASEAN Common Stand on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and Related Issues" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 80 of the preliminary list, and brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(Signed) Sedfrey A. ORDONEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Joint press statement of the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, held on 17 and 18 February 1992 at Singapore

1. Singapore hosted the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) on 17 and 18 February 1992. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Mattar, Minister for the Environment, Singapore.

2. The Meeting was attended by His Excellency Pg Dato Seri Paduka Dr Hj Ismail b Pg Hj Damit, Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Professor Emil Salim, Minister of State for Population and the Environment, Indonesia; His Excellency Law Hieng Ding, Minister for Science, Technology and the Environment, Malaysia; His Excellency Fulgencio S. Factoran, Jr., Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines; His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Mattar, Minister for the Environment, Singapore; and His Excellency Mr. Vikrom Koompirochana, Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore, representing the Minister of Science, Technology and Energy, Thailand, Dr. Amru Hydari Nazif, Assistant Director VI of the ASEAN secretariat representing the Secretary-General of the ASEAN secretariat.

3. The Meeting adopted the Singapore resolution on environment and development and its annex, the ASEAN Common Stand on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro and related issues. In preparing for the Singapore resolution, the Ministers were guided by the directions set out by the Fourth ASEAN Summit. A copy of the Singapore resolution on environment and development is attached (see appendix below). Annexed to that resolution is the ASEAN Common Stand on UNCED and related issues.

4. The Singapore resolution sets out the directions for ASEAN to enhance its ongoing and future regional cooperation and the ASEAN common stand on global environmental and developmental issues which are being addressed by the UNCED process and other international forums.

5. The Ministers reaffirmed the region's commitment to the principles of sustainable development. They recognized however that the pursuit of sustainable development requires close cooperation among and between ASEAN member countries in particular, and global cooperation in general.

6. The Ministers agreed that ASEAN member countries would work collectively towards the improvement of environmental quality, harmonization of standards, and jointly promote the application, transfer and development of appropriate environmental technologies. In the international context, the Ministers agreed that ASEAN would continue to actively participate in and support international efforts in promoting sustainable development.

7. To enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable development, the Ministers agreed that ASEAN member countries would work closely on policy measures that would help encourage the integration of environmental factors in developmental processes. Towards this end, member countries would also cooperate towards setting up and harmonizing environmental quality standards and adopt long-term quantitative goals relating to ambient air quality and river water quality.

8. The Ministers further agreed to step up cooperation in areas of information exchange, institutional development, and promotion of environmental technology and public awareness. Member countries would undertake to develop and implement programmes relating to: haze caused by forest fires, air and water quality management, natural resources and environmental accounting, environmental economics, trans-frontier parks and other protected areas, a regional network for biological diversity conservation and the protection of the marine environment in ASEAN seas.

9. With respect to development and global environmental issues, the Ministers agreed that new and additional financial resources must be provided to help developing countries in meeting the incremental costs of protecting the global environment. The Ministers urged countries to establish basic environmental standards as needed for a quality of life and environmental protection, and stressed that there must be equitable, balanced and comprehensive solutions to the interrelated issues of economic development and environmental protection.

10. The ASEAN Common Stand also calls for urgent measures to combat climate change, the immediate implementation of the Montreal Protocol Interim Multilateral Fund, the protection of the ecosystems of oceans and seas from pollution, greater efforts to protect freshwater resources and to ensure access of all people to this vital commodity, the sustainable management of all forests, the conservation of biological diversity, support for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and support for the objective of the Prior-Informed-Consent system for the trading of toxic chemicals.

11. The Ministers agreed that UNCED is an important landmark in a long-term global endeavour to pursue the goals of sustainable development. The Ministers also hoped that UNCED would produce comprehensive action programmes needed to halt the global environmental degradation.

12. The Ministers considered the initiative of the United States of America in launching the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP) Programme and agreed that the US-AEP would facilitate the transfer of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies to the region. In this respect, ASEAN member countries look forward to working closely with the United States in the proposed partnership programme. The ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) had been asked to follow up on this proposal.

13. The Ministers also agreed to establish closer relation and cooperation between ASEAN member countries and other developing countries as well as associations of developing countries. In this connection, ASOEN had been asked to take appropriate measures to achieve this end.

14. The Ministers considered the outcome of the Fifth AMME as further evidence of ASEAN's success in regional cooperation, especially in the field of environment and development. The Ministers agreed that the Sixth AMME shall be held at Brunei Darussalam in 1995. It was further agreed that, if necessary, the sixth AMME may be brought forward to address the UNCED outcome and post-UNCED activities. The Ministers also expressed support and look forward to working closely at the forthcoming Second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development, from 27 to 29 April 1992 at Kuala Lumpur.

APPENDIX

Singapore resolution on environment and development, adopted at Singapore, on 18 February 1992

Aware that the pursuit of sustainable development is essential for a better quality of life for the people of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) today and in the future,

Further aware that sustainable development, especially the management of the environment, requires close cooperation among and between the member countries of ASEAN in particular and global cooperation in general and that ASEAN should therefore strengthen such cooperation,

Recognizing that environmental and population factors must be integrated into developmental efforts in order to achieve sustainable development,

Further recognizing that natural resources and environmental accounting and valuation of environmental and ecological factors are essential to the successful pursuit of sustainable development,

Convinced that the outcome of the fourth ASEAN Summit in January 1992 has brought about immense opportunities for economic cooperation which promises regional growth and that such growth will have to be sustained through, inter alia, greater intra-ASEAN cooperation,

Realizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 offers a unique opportunity to put into effect programmes for global environmental management and the achievement of sustainable development, and that ASEAN should therefore contribute its views to this forum, and

Further realizing that, being a grouping of dynamic developing countries, ASEAN should take a leading role towards achieving a proper balance between environmental protection and economic development and promote its common views on these issues at international forums, including the Preparatory Committee for UNCED meeting at its fourth session to be held in New York in March 1992 and the second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development to be held at Kuala Lumpur in April 1992.

In the traditional ASEAN spirit of amity, friendship and cooperation, we, the ASEAN Ministers, responsible for the environment, agree that:

1. ASEAN member countries shall intensify cooperation in environmental management and protection in their common pursuit of sustainable development. In this regard, member countries shall work collectively towards the improvement of environmental quality, harmonization of standards, and jointly promote the application, transfer and development of appropriate environmental technologies.

2. ASEAN shall continue to actively participate in and support international efforts in promoting the principles of sustainable development.

Enhancing regional cooperation

To promote regional cooperation towards sustainable development, we agree that ASEAN member countries shall:

Policies

(a) Introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that will encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes;

(b) Work closely on the interrelated issues of environment and development;

(c) Cooperate in setting basic environmental quality standards and regulations at national level, work towards harmonized environmental quality standards in the region, and adopt long-term quantitative goals relating to ambient air quality and river water quality;

(d) Harmonize policy directions and step up operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters such as transboundary air and water pollution, natural disasters, forest fires, oil spills, and the transboundary movements and disposal of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and undertake joint actions to address the anti-tropical timber campaign;

Information exchange

Encourage greater information and data exchange, particularly in air and water quality as well as greenhouse gas monitoring;

Institutional development

(a) Strengthen the institutional and technical capability of national agencies to enable them effectively to integrate environmental considerations into development plans;

(b) Cooperate in capacity building of national institutions responsible for the environment through regional training assistance programmes, regular exchange of information and management data and a greater exchange of visits among officials and experts;

(c) Work with and cooperate in providing adequate training at all levels in public and private sector organizations, including non-governmental organizations, with the aim of improving their environmental management expertise and skills;

Technology cooperation

(a) Continue to enhance cooperation in the field of environmental technology through sharing of technical information, initiate joint training

and research programmes, and exchange expertise in environmental management and technology;

(b) Promote the application of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies, as well as encourage support from the business sector and the public for clean production and industrial practices;

Public awareness

Continue to promote public awareness of environmental issues so as to bring about broader participation in environmental protection efforts, and to do so through greater exchange of information and experiences on approaches and strategies in environmental education; and

Programmes

Undertake to develop and implement specific programmes relating to: haze caused by forest fires, air and water quality management, natural resources and environmental accounting, environmental economics, transfrontier parks and other protected areas, a regional network for biological diversity conservation and protection of the marine environment in ASEAN seas.

Addressing development and global environmental issues

To address development and global environmental issues, we agree that ASEAN member countries shall:

(a) Adopt a common stand on UNCED and related issues as stated in the annex, and endeavour to have it reflected in the outcome of UNCED;

(b) Actively take part in international efforts to protect the global environment;

(c) Emphasize the importance for developed countries to provide adequate, new and additional financial resources to the developing countries to help address the environmental and developmental problems confronting them;

(d) Stress the need for developed countries to assist developing countries by transferring and providing access to environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms;

(e) Support the call for the developed countries to maintain an international environment which is supportive of economic growth and development;

(f) Explore the desirability of having flag States contribute to and help ensure safe navigation for the protection of the marine environment; and

(g) Promote greater cooperation among and between developing countries in the field of environment and development, through information exchange and the sharing of experience and expertise.

ANNEX TO THE SINGAPORE RESOLUTION

ASEAN Common Stand on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and Related Issues

Aware that the pursuit of sustainable development is essential for a better quality of life for the people of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) today and in the future;

Further aware that the pursuit of sustainable development, especially the management of the environment, requires close cooperation among and between the member countries of ASEAN in particular and global cooperation in general, and that ASEAN should therefore strengthen such cooperation; and

Recognizing, that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 offers a unique opportunity to put into effect programmes for global environmental management and the achievement of sustainable development.

We, the ASEAN Ministers, responsible for the environment hereby call for:

1. Urgent measures to combat climate change.

In this respect, the developed countries should stabilize and limit the emissions of all greenhouse gases.

However, any reductions in greenhouse gases must be made on an equitable basis, taking into consideration historical emissions and efficiency of energy use. In addition, adequate, new and additional funding must be provided by developed countries, especially those which have been emitting cumulatively large amounts of $CO_2$, to enable developing countries to meet the full incremental costs of combating climate change. Technologies to reduce $CO_2$ emissions shall be made available to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms.

All sinks, in particular coastal waters, seas and oceans, should be protected.

2. The immediate implementation of the Montreal Protocol Interim Multilateral Fund.

There should be expeditious transfer of environmentally sound alternative technologies from developed countries to developing countries, including building the capabilities of developing countries in research and development. Recognizing that the Montreal Protocol may have to be amended from time to time, any amendments must include adequate provisions to ensure the non-application of compliance procedure until the required technologies become freely and commercially available on concessional and preferential terms.

3. The protection of the ecosystems of oceans and seas from pollution.

Due recognition must be given to the fact that land-based sources of pollution, in particular sewage and wastewater discharge, and offshore sources such as oil spills are major causes of marine degradation. There is a need to modify the existing policies for concessional loans to developing countries on coastal and marine environmental management and protection projects. National capabilities for the acquisition of expertise in the implementation of international intruments for the protection of marine environment must be built up and strengthened.

The vital role of Antarctica in the global atmospheric, oceanic and ecological systems must also be recognized and efforts to protect and conserve its environment for the benefits of mankind must be fully supported within the UNCED process.

4. Greater efforts to protect freshwater resources and to ensure access of all people to this vital commodity.

Freshwater resources should be conserved and protected and the capacity for developing countries to conserve, manage and develop these resources should be strengthened. To achieve this, there should be adequate provision of fund at concessional rates.

5. The sustainable management of all forests.

Countries have the sovereign right to develop on a sustainable basis their forests in accordance with their needs and levels of socio-economic development. Any agreement on forestry and all types of forests must be part and parcel of the global package to undertake specific actions to resolve problems relating to environment and development. Developed countries should cease all forms of unilateral measures to ban the importation of tropical timber particularly when discussions have begun within the UNCED preparatory process on a statement of principles on global forestry. In addition, developed countries should undertake specific and transparent measures to increase their forest cover as part of their global responsibilities to restore the balance between development and the need to protect the environment.

6. The conservation of biological diversity.

The sovereign rights of States over natural resources, including genetic resources, should be honoured and respected. Funding mechanisms to compensate developing countries for their sacrifices and opportunity costs forgone for conserving biological diversity should be established. New funding mechanisms for biodiversity conservation should also be created. However, the funds should not be sourced from levels imposed on the trade of natural resources from the developing countries. The burden of conservation should be shared equitably by the developed and developing countries, taking into account the financial capabilities of the developing countries.

Access to biological diversity should be based on mutually agreed terms and the principle of prior-informed-consent so that the countries providing the genetic resources have preferential access to the results of research, products developed, and benefits and profits from genetic resources. Mechanisms to define ownership of genetic materials should be ensured. Transfer of technologies relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as transfer of technologies that make use of genetic resources, should be on concessional and preferential terms.

7. Support for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The Convention should be complemented by a Protocol on liability and compensation which must address the concerns of the developing countries, taking into account their views with regard to liability and compensation from damage resulting from transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous wastes.

8. Support for the objective of the Prior-Informed-Consent (PIC) system under the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Banned or Severely Restricted Chemicals in International Trade.

A legal framework on the management of toxic chemicals in international trade should be formulated jointly by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), WHO (World Health Organization), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and IMO (International Maritime Organization).

To achieve the above, we, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the environment further call for:

1. New and additional financial resources to meet incremental costs of protecting the global environment. New and innovative methods for generating financial resources should be sought and agreed upon. More funding for implementing sustainable development policies at the regional and national levels should be provided by developed countries.

2. The establishment of basic environmental standards for a minimum level of quality of life and environmental protection. Appropriate technologies to help countries achieve such standards must be identified and all means, financial as well as legal, to overcome patent laws should be made available to enable the transfer of such appropriate technologies to the developing countries.

3. Equitable, balanced and comprehensive solutions to the interrelated issues of economic development and environmental protection.

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the environment further recommend that the following be reflected in the preparation of the Earth Charter and Agenda 21:

1. Earth Charter: the title of the declaration should be "Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development". The Declaration should contain the general principles outlining the rights and obligations of individuals and States with regard to environment and development. Although not legally binding, the Declaration must be a strong expression of political and moral commitments to sustainable development. Among other things, the Declaration should affirm the principles of sovereign rights of States over environmental and natural resources, the rights of all peoples and States to develop, equitable sharing of responsibility, and the principle that unilateral barriers to free trade should not be imposed under the guise of environmental concerns.

2. Agenda 21: priorities should be set for the programmes, projects and activities of Agenda 21. The criteria and procedure in prioritization should be transparent and there must be a proper balance between development and environmental projects.

In the development of a funding mechanism to finance the activities and programmes under the Agenda 21, there is a need to ensure that funds are available for both development and environmental projects. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) should be reviewed and revised in both its scope and mandate. The disbursement of its funds should involve the participation of both the developed and developing countries. There is a need to create a general fund to deal with programmes not covered by GEF or other funds created under specific international conventions.

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